

In brief: I would recommend that the proposal for the deletion of the Element 1 (Morse Code Proficiency Test) requirement for all Amateur Radio License Classes be approved.

In Summary: Morse Code has had, and will always have, a proud place in the halls of Amateur Radio. There is no doubt that this form of communication will continue to be used for years to come. However; long since past is the period where a knowledge of code is needed in order to fulfill the requirements of an Amateur Radio Operator. We live in an age of communications, where more of an Amateur's time should be spent in learning the theory behind the system. With all the methods of digital communications available to a "Ham", not to mention the visual and aural modes, it seems rather pointless to "force" a knowledge of one singular mode.

Please, accept my comments for what they are: a request to make the Amateur Radio Service into more of what it is best suited for. The Amateur Service is a) a great hobby, b) a fantastic way to experiment and learn and c) a pool of OPERATORS that have the technical knowledge to perform emergency services with minimal outside support.

I appreciate the Commission's time, and thank you for this opportunity to express my comments.

Stuart A. Rowland, AD5OA (Gen. Radiotelephone #PG10-26369)